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Argonne National Laboratory

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May 24, 1949

Dr. Shields Warren, Director  
Division of Biology & Medicine  
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
1901 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, 25, D.C.

Access # 78  
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Box 3  
File = AMB-A

Dear Dr. Warren:

In my letter of April 12, in response to your letter of March 29, 1949, I stated that Argonne National Laboratory would be glad to accept the responsibility for the biological research program in connection with the next tests. I further stated that the Laboratory had assigned this responsibility to Dr. Austin M. Brues who would serve as its representative.

Subsequent to this letter, Dr. Brues discussed with you in Detroit on April 20 the magnitude of the operation and further discussed the situation with Dr. Bowers on the evening of April 24. Dr. Brues' position was that if anyone from Argonne National Laboratory took over the responsibility for these tests it would require the major share of his time. Furthermore, it became clear that much more than technical responsibility was involved and that the administrative responsibility would far outweigh the purely scientific activities. This was discussed with Dr. Bowers, and he agreed that this judgement was probably correct, and that with the increasing scientific load here at Argonne Laboratory, it was probably true that Dr. Brues should not undertake this further responsibility. The following afternoon a conference was held with Dr. Wright Langham and Dr. J.C. Clark of Los Alamos in which the matter was further discussed. The result of this discussion was simply to confirm the earlier decisions.

In view of the above discussions Dr. Bowers indicated that it would be necessary to make other arrangements, of which the most likely would be the assumption of the responsibility by the Washington Office. Dr. Brues has given his assurance that he would be glad to express his opinions and to provide whatever advice he could give in connection with the tests, on a strictly informal basis.

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As a result, it is the understanding of Argonne National Laboratory that it has been formally divested of any special responsibility for these tests. I am very sorry that this situation has arisen, but I must confess that I concur. I trust that you will feel free, however, to make whatever use you can of the advice and assistance on technical matters which Drs. Brues and Lisco, and the other members of their staff, can provide.

Sincerely yours,

*A. Hilberry*

A. Hilberry,  
Deputy Director

NH:rm

cc S. Warren  
A. Tammaro  
W.E. Zinn  
A.M. Brues

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